

## Minutes of Public Works Committee Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Present: Rob Crowner (Chair), Guilford Mooring (Superintendent, DPW), Don George, Charlie Moran, Stephen Braun, Michael Cann, Vince O'Connor; Andrew Melnechuk (Public Transportation Committee liaison).

### 1. Administrative

Minutes of 12/9/08: Accepted 4-0-1.

Next meeting set for: February 3, 2009, 7:00.

### 2. Old Business

Street Repair Discussion: Rob reported on the Select Board meeting of 1-5-09 which many of the Committee had attended. His impression: Town Manager wanted Select Board approval in order to proceed with efforts to fund the proposed accelerated road repair program. He noted that the Select Board raised a couple of questions about whether sidewalks would be included in the proposed work. It was agreed that PWC should send again to the Select Board its list of proposed new sidewalk construction. Superintendent Mooring reported that the Town had received a letter from the Lieutenant Governor requesting by this Thursday, January 8, a list of all public works construction projects, both those in late design stages and those planned as part of the state's efforts to be ready for any federal monies available via the anticipated "Stimulus Package." This list is being developed by the Superintendent and will be sent forward as requested.

It was **Moved**: To add to the town's Stimulus Package project list that will be submitted to the Lieutenant Governor: (1) PWC's list of sidewalks proposed for new construction; (2) PWC's list of sidewalks proposed for reconstruction; (3) a list of intersections that are in various stages of re-design; and (4) a sufficient number of cameras and controllers for Town intersections.

**Voted:** 6-0.

There was some discussion around increasing the state and federal gasoline tax as a means of paying for the stimulus package. Some felt that now that gasoline prices are at a probably-temporary low, this is the time to take this action.

It was **Moved**: That PWC ask the Town Manager and the Select Board to communicate to our state representatives our support for an increase in the state gasoline tax; and to communicate to our representatives in the Federal Government our support for an increase in the federal gasoline tax.

**Voted:** 4-1-1

There was some discussion around the signal at the proposed redesigned “Big Y-Arbors” intersection at the south end of University Drive: Superintendent Mooring reported that the new light at this intersection will be on demand, remaining green to north-south traffic until there is demand from traffic entering from Big Y or the Arbors. The camera and controller have the capacity to do traffic counts as well.

### **3. New Business**

The Committee addressed the issues raised by Larry Siddall around the intersection of Strong Street and East Pleasant Street. Mr. Siddall has asked that the intersection be signaled. Mr. Mooring reported that traffic at this intersection was heavy in the morning and afternoon, but otherwise light. He gave the Committee accident statistics for this intersection. In the past year, accident totals for the whole of East Pleasant Street, from Triangle to Pine Street, were 16, 7 of which were personal injuries, one a bicycle. For the Strong Street and E. Pleasant intersection, 5 accidents, 4 personal injuries. For the intersection of Clark Hill Road and East Pleasant Street: 1.

The Committee asked about the criteria for installing a traffic light at an intersection. Mr. Mooring said that a traffic study had been done before his time in office, and had shown traffic not to be sufficient to meet state guidelines, but that the results of this study could not be located. A new traffic study would cost : \$10,000. He will put traffic counters at the intersection in March. He plans to install a signal at the Eastman Lane/East Pleasant/Tilson Farms intersection this spring, given that the University is moving its Public Safety operations to Tilson Farm. This signal, he believes, will tell southbound traffic on East Pleasant Street that it is entering a town/city environment, and may cause this traffic to reduce speed.

The Committee agreed that Chairman Crouner would write a letter to Mr. Siddall, that might include the statement that Town funds are tight, that a new traffic signal costs upward of \$30,000, and full traffic study \$10,000; that the Town will do low-cost traffic count in March; and that the new traffic signal scheduled for installation at the Eastman Lane-East Pleasant Street intersection may slow southbound traffic on East Pleasant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec’y *pro tem*.